

it, the jerking foot I can't control.
No matter how hard I try, the will won't
go that deep, but things get taken care of
there, in the murmurous estuaries.

— Peter Desy

Columbus OH

JAYWALKING THE AIRWAVES

It's less easy to read between the lines on TV
because they rarely shut up
but the other night I caught a gem on one of those
objective PBS news programs.

Summing up the week, a reporter from The Wall Street
Journal says, "450,000 new jobs created this quarter."
And the host of the show asks, "What kind of jobs
are they? Are they good jobs? Or are they McDonalds?"

and there is silence on the airways

"Well," Mr. Wall Street Journal says, blushing, "50
percent are in the service sector ... but 50 percent
are in manufacturing."

and there is silence on the airwaves

"But aren't 20 percent of those temporary jobs?"
another reporter asks

"Yes, they are," Mr. Wall Street Journal says,
blushing again

and there is silence on the airways

and there is more silence on the airways
and no one says what they are all thinking:

There are not 450,000 new jobs
There are 300,000 new wage slaves

Every man is free to jaywalk the truth
but it seems to me the man in power
should consider treating better the young
and the poor
Otherwise some day when he is old and helpless
he will be at the mercy of like-minded men.

What I mean is this: the same free-spirited compulsion
or calculated selfishness that can make one man want
to jaywalk
can make another no lesser, no greater man
want to run his ass over